

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of

DAIROKU et al

Atty. Ref.: 1035-492

Serial No. 10/764,444

TC/A.U.:

Filed: January 27, 2004

Examiner:

For: METHOD OF MANUFACTURING WATER-ABSORBING SHAPED  
BODY

\* \* \* \* \*

June 8, 2004

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Attention is invited to the attached copy of a European Search Report mailed May 14, 2004 with respect to the counterpart European application and a copy of EP 0 228 628 cited in it. A completed Form PTO 1449 is also attached.

The document cited (in German) is listed in the European Search Report as category "A" relating to technological background. Patent family numbers (in English) are U.S. 4,893,999 and 4,857,610 and were already cited in the IDS filed April 20, 2004.

Official citation and consideration of the attached document is requested. Please return to the undersigned a copy of the attached PTO-1449 with the examiner's initials in the left column [MPEP §609] with the next communication.

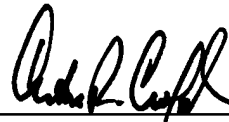
I hereby certify that each item of information contained herein was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than 3 months from the filing date of this statement [see 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e) (1)].

The filing of an Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability [37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g) & (h)] or that no other material information exists.

Respectfully submitted,

**NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.**

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